

REMARKS

In the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner required restriction of the application to one of the following two groups of claims: Group I, including claims 1-12 and 18; and Group II, including claims 13-17.

Applicant respectfully asserts that the restriction requirement is improper and should be withdrawn since examination of both groups would not impose a serious burden on the Examiner. Where, as here, "the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions." MPEP §803.

Each group contains claims directed to the saturation magnetization properties of a material and/or layer(s). Therefore, a search of the claims of one group would necessitate a search of one or more elements of the claims in the other group.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the restriction requirement be reconsidered and withdrawn and that all of the pending claims in the application be examined together in this application, or, alternatively, Applicant hereby elects Group I, claims 1-12 and 18, with traverse, for prosecution in this application.

If any outstanding issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions for expediting allowance of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

The Examiner's attention to this matter is appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,



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Michael J. Chang
Attorney for Applicant(s)
Reg. No. 46,611
Ryan, Mason & Lewis, LLP
1300 Post Road, Suite 205
Fairfield, CT 06824
(203) 255-6560